

"Good."
ration,
d," says
toward
ging, she
handful
th con-
ad
underpin-
is-
re the
t any
edule.
selves
lation
and

; the first
nnecticut

et" as it
r vacation
n wearing
or wages

programs
couts
an Camp-
mote

ited
criteria
d program

Cloud
e Girl
h cancer
d for dis-
nture
ing back-
e out of

mping,
1-800-



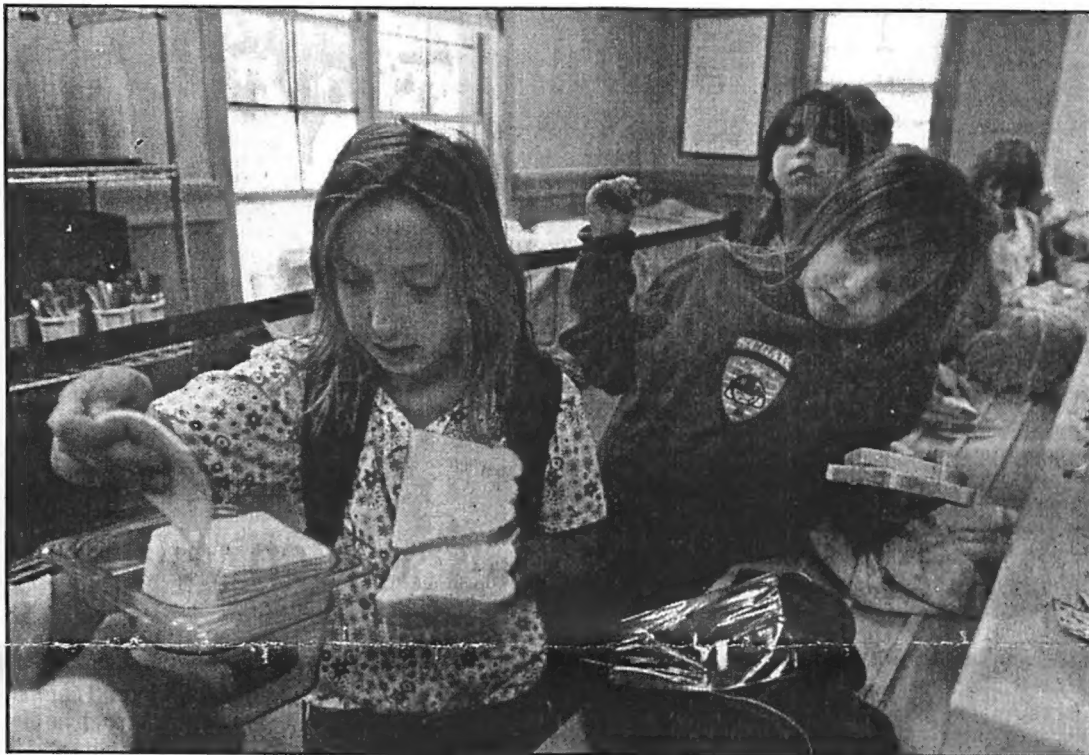
of the program at Camp Cloud Rim.

ard."
at about camp,
it takes the
ir realm. "Too
urrowed into
ere, they are
eir same
not doing the
is a great
environment
be whomever



RAVELL CULL, DESERT NEWS

The lodge at Camp Cloud Rim, rebuilt after a 1992 fire, provides a backdrop for the morning flag ceremony and a hub for daily activities.



Courtney Langston, left, Lorie Weikel and Julia Arias make sandwiches for their day's picnic lunch.

that must be done, says Mur-
phy.

Each of the campers also has a community role, something that contributes to the whole community, such as distributing mail or participating on the Camper Counsel, which chooses themes for each day and for the week. (It might be Princess Day or Pirate Day. Or it might be Space Week.)

And there's also time to appreciate and enjoy the setting, which rests at 9,211 feet.

"This is an incredibly beautiful place," says site manager Michelle Daum. "Our own secret paradise. There's something of everything. The kids can enjoy the outside without being afraid of the outside."

As camps go, Cloud Rim would tip the scale on the lush side.

From the lodge to the lodgings and the showers to the biffy (which stands for, if you didn't know, "Bathroom In Forest For You"), facilities here are first-rate, says Guy.

Cloud Rim opened in 1937, when it hosted a World Encampment (one of the guests was former U.S. first lady Lou Hoover).

But in the winter of 1992, the old lodge burned down.

So the camp was closed through 1997 while new facilities were built.

"We have some nice touches," says Guy. "For example, the cabins are all named after famous women. And in each cabin is a shelf with books and pictures about that person."

The camp holds about 112 campers and has a 30-member staff.

"We also have five moose and two beaver," says Murphy. (They don't participate regularly, however.)

Most of the camp counselors have gone through the complete camp program themselves.

"I've been a Girl Scout for many years," says Murphy, "and it's opened a world of opportunity for me."

At camp, she says, they try to help the girls reach their full potential. "We want them to think it's cool to be a girl, there are so many things they can do."

At Cloud Rim, says Guy, "we are teaching camping skills. But the girls are learning life skills — things that will help them the rest of their lives."

"Our purpose is to help them become self-reliant, self-respecting, Earth-respecting young women," says Guy. "And that's exactly what they get at camp."

At Cloud Rim, the girls are divided by age groups: Brownies, age 6-8; Juniors, age 9-11; Cadettes and Seniors, age 12-17.

Sometimes troops will all sign up together. "They really get closer together as a troop," says Hugh. But often, girls from all over the state sign up for a particular week, and that's good, too. They don't even have to be Girl Scouts, although there is an extra insurance charge for non-Scouts. "Most girls, if they aren't already members join before coming to camp," says Hugh. And, she says, a lot of people don't realize they don't have to be in a troop to be a Girl Scout. "You can be an individual Scout and work on your badge books and things on your own."

Many of the girls come back year after year, and things are set up so there is a natural progression. The Brownies stay in cabins; the Juniors have platform tents; the Cadettes have springbar tents. The Brownies climb on the Brownie Boulder; the Juniors use the climbing wall; the Cadettes climb the face of a rock cliff.

Most of the activities are tai-

but some campwide activities allow interaction among all the girls.

A typical day at Cloud Rim might go like this: Up at 7 a.m.; breakfast; Opening Circle, where the girls talk about and plan what they will do that day. Flag ceremony, at 8:45, includes singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Law.

Morning activities follow: climbing, hiking, water sports. Lunch is at 12:30. Then the girls have an hour of "me time," when they are free to do whatever they want: take a nap, read, write letters. At 3 p.m., there is an optional yoga class; more activities follow; dinner is at 5:30 p.m.

Closing flag ceremony takes place at 7:15 p.m., followed by an all-camp activity such as a campfire with skits and songs or a dance.

The counselors plan a late activity and then go around to each of the cabins and tents to sing until the girls go to sleep.

Lights out is about 9 p.m. for Brownies, 10 p.m. for older girls.

"It's really not hard to get them to go to sleep," says K'Leena Murphy, assistant program director. "It's cold, it's dark — and they've been going strong all day."

Each group is also assigned

RAVELL CULL, DESERT NEWS

GIRLS

Continued from C1

gives children the opportunity to feel part of an interdependent group and to feel a responsibility toward the other members. The whole idea of community is missing from the lives of too many children in today's culture."

So, it is not surprising, she says, that camp enrollment and camp programs are increasing "by leaps and bounds." (Since 1992, summer camp enrollment has increased by 8-10 percent each year.)

ACA's motto is "Camp Gives Kids a World of Good." "That 'world' is one where contribution, cooperation, compassion and commitment are highly valued," says Smith. "When a camper accepts responsibility toward others, then is rewarded with a sense of belonging, she or he feels community."

The camp experience is a positive one for a handful of important reasons, says the ACA:

1. Camp is a safe and nurturing environment for children. A supervised, positive environment with controlled boundaries helps children grow.

2. Camp is a caring community. Appreciation and respect for others and all living things are the underpinning of quality camp experiences.

3. Camp is a vital element in a child's education. Dis-

covery, exploration and active participation are the methods of learning at camp.

4. Camp is for everyone. Camp can serve almost any interest, ability, budget, age and personal schedule.

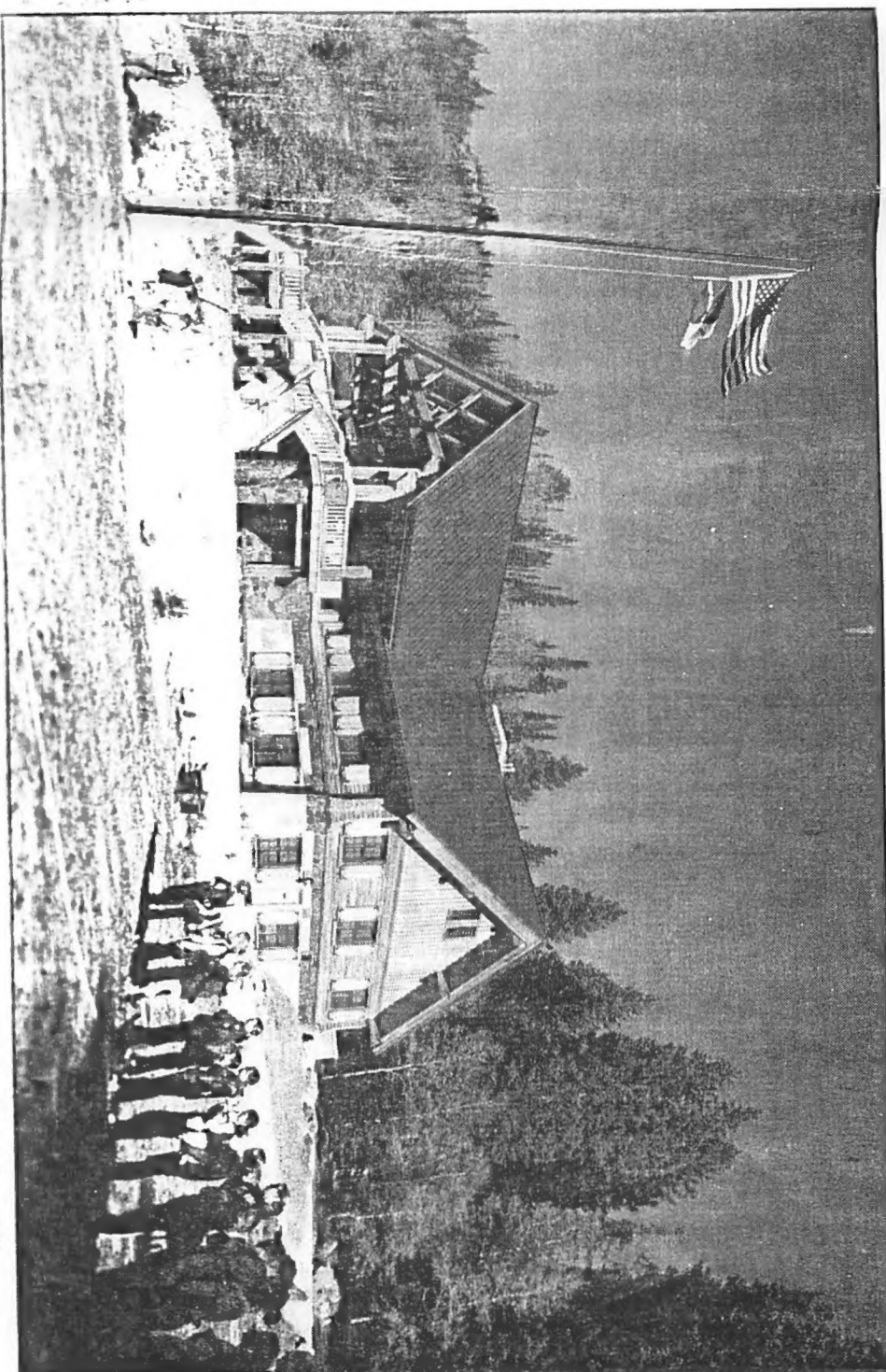
5. Camp is fun. Campers learn to respect themselves through enjoyable activities and is the foundation upon which to accept self respect, cooperation and responsibility are constructed.

Camp is a long-standing American tradition; the first organized camp was established in 1794 in Connecticut by Frederick and Abigail Camp.

"The first YWCA camp, or 'Vacation project' as it was called, came along in 1874. This summer vacation house was established for 'tired young women wearing out their lives in an almost endless drudgery for wages that admit no thought of rest or recreation.'"

The early 1900s saw a number of camping programs established, including Boys Club (1900), Girl Scouts (1912) and Camp Fire Girls (1914). The American Camping Association was established in 1910 to promote guidelines and standards for camp programs.

Each year, ACA publishes a guide to accredited camps around the country. Camps must meet criteria outlined in 300 standards for health, safety and program quality.



The lodge at Camp Chestnut Hill, rebuilt after a 1992 fire, provides a backdrop for the morning flag ceremony and a hub for daily activities.



that must be done," says Murphy.

Each of the campers also has a community role, something that contributes to the whole community, such as distributing mail or participating on the Camper Counsel, which chooses themes for each day and for the week. (It might be Princess Day or Pirate Day. Or, it might be Space Week.)

And there's also time to appreciate and enjoy the setting, which rests at 9,211 feet. "This is an incredibly beautiful place," says site manager

